

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052702

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SEDU, OCON, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO : EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - BENJAMIN A. FLECK

1. BEDELL TRIP (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

CONGRESSMAN BEDELL HAS STILL NOT DECIDED DEFINITELY THAT HE WILL VISIT MANILA MARCH 23-28. HE IS SEEKING ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN TO JOIN HIM ON THE TRIP.

2. KAHIN VISIT (UNCLASSIFIED)

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY BOB PRINGLE THAT PROFESSOR GEORGE KAHIN OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY PLANS TO VISIT MANILA FROM

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PAGE 02 STATE 052702

MARCH 20 TO 26 EN ROUTE TO SINGAPORE. HE IS INTERESTED, ACCORDING TO PRINGLE, IN THE U.S.-PHILIPPINE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP IN GENERAL AND QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BASES IN PARTICULAR. PRINGLE HAS WRITTEN TO BOB WENZEL, GIVING FURTHER BACKGROUND ON KAHIN AND HIS INTERESTS.

3. PHILIPPINES SEEKS TO HOST ANOTHER UN CONFERENCE

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY DCM BELISARIO HAS INFORMALLY INITIATED SOUNDINGS ON USG WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT MANILA AS THE SITE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION SCHEDULED FOR 1980. RECALLING IMELDA MARCOS' SUDDEN, ILL-FATED PROPOSAL LAST FALL THAT THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BE HELD IN MANILA, BELISARIO EMPHASIZED THAT ON THIS OCCASION THE GOP WAS EMBARKING ON A QUIET, ADVANCE SOLICITATION AND CANVASSING OF OPINION.

IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S STANDING BELIEF THAT UN CONFERENCES SHOULD BE HELD AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION BECAUSE STAGING THEM ELSEWHERE NORMALLY INCREASES COSTS SOME 500 PER CENT. HOWEVER, WE WILL SHORTLY BE TELLING BELISARIO THAT WE COULD PROBABLY SUPPORT MOVING THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE TO MANILA IF THE GOP IS WILLING TO ASSUME THE ADDED EXPENSE OF HOSTING THE MEETING. SINCE THIS WOULD PROBABLY AMOUNT TO SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS, THE GOP MAY WELL RECONSIDER ITS INTEREST IN PRESSING THE MATTER.

4. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

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